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Central Intelligence Agency



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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

1 May 1984

Summary

Kampuchea: The Vietnamese Campaign Winds Down [redacted] 25X1

Vietnamese military operations against resistance camps on the Thai-Kampuchean border have abated over the past week, indicating that the annual dry season campaign is nearing its end. Vietnamese forces have already extended their operations several weeks beyond the period when they normally begin pulling back their heavy equipment to rear bases for the rainy season, and heavy rains are falling. Vietnamese forces are still in position to mount a few more operations over the next week or so but the probability of large scale assaults is diminishing. Resistance setbacks over the past several weeks will probably be only temporary, and we look for an active rainy season by both sides.

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This memorandum was prepared by [redacted] Southeast Asia Division, Office of East Asian Analysis. Information available as of 1 May was used in its preparation. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to Chief, Southeast Asia Division, OEA [redacted]

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The Balance Sheet: Little Net Change

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Although the DK achieved its most successful dry season of the conflict, it failed to accomplish one of its major objectives: to prevent Vietnamese forces from massing against resistance bases on the border. The DK has also suffered substantial materiel losses and has probably sustained higher casualties than in previous dry seasons. Although lost supplies will be quickly replaced by the Chinese, we believe DK operations in some areas of the interior will be at least temporarily constrained by supply shortages. But the DK's long-term prospects have not been seriously affected and it should be able to continue making at least modest progress in its interior operations. [REDACTED]

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The weaker non-Communist resistance has been damaged more seriously, but the impact here will probably also be temporary. The several hundred guerrillas each group had dispatched to the interior have been forced to return to the border, setting back their embryonic efforts to expand their influence. [REDACTED]

The Vietnamese, for their part, have been able to stall resistance momentum, which, had it continued unchecked, would have created major difficulties for them in the approaching rainy season. The Vietnamese probably believe that their campaign also has countered guerrilla and ASEAN allegations that Hanoi's position in Kampuchea was being seriously eroded by guerrilla successes. [REDACTED]

We believe the balance of forces in Kampuchea has not changed appreciably, despite the heightened levels of activity by all the contestants. The resistance has achieved a modest net gain, but still poses no serious threat to Vietnamese control. [REDACTED]

Additional Military Operations Likely

Heavy rainfall since 15 April indicates an early start of the rainy season, and the Vietnamese have begun to pull back their heavy equipment from some forward areas. [REDACTED]

Although the threat of major attacks against resistance bases appears likely to pass within the next week or two, we believe prospects for active rainy season operations by both sides is high. DK forces will try to exploit their improved access to the interior to increase attacks on population centers, transportation facilities, and military installations. Vietnam will probably counter with increased sweep operations. But neither side will gain a decisive edge. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Kampuchea: The Vietnamese Campaign Winds Down

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